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PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHDH RUEHKUK RUEHROV
DE RUEHMS #0397/01 1240956
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
P R 040957Z MAY 09
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0388
INFO ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS 0017
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 0019
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 MUSCAT 000397

SIPDIS
STATE FOR NEA/ARP
NEA/PPD
NEA/PI
INR/R/MR
NEA/SA/EX/PMO
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [OIIP](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [MU](#)
SUBJECT: OMAN MEDIA REACTION

1. SUMMARY: This week in Omani dailies, commentaries repeated condemnations of Israel for blocking the peace process. Government daily "Oman" said that the Arab peace initiative is already part of the final solution, despite Israel's backtracking on the two-state solution. Private daily "Al Watan" accused Israel of sabotaging peace negotiations with settlement expansion. Later in the week, "Al Watan" said that Israel is challenging President Obama's peace efforts and opposing all positive efforts towards a resolution. As (tragi)comic relief, one editor ascribes Somali piracy to a Zionist Israeli conspiracy. END SUMMARY.

ARAB INITIATIVE ALREADY PART OF THE SOLUTION

2. On April 27, government Arabic-language daily "Oman" (circulation 38,000) commented that the Arab peace initiative is already part of a final solution, despite the Israeli Prime Minister's opposition to the two-state solution. According to "Israeli Escape from Peace Harms Stability for all Parties":

"It seems that Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu is avoiding the two-state solution and every path that leads to it. He even avoids mentioning the Palestinian state when talking about the situation in the region. However, the Arab peace initiative is already part of the solution and has built the foundations of a new reality in the region. It is not only supported by the U.S. but it also has growing support within Israel."

SETTLEMENTS MUST BE AT THE FOREFRONT

3. On April 28, private Arabic daily "Al Watan" (circulation 42,000) commented that Israel is sabotaging peace efforts through settlement expansion. "No Peace with Continuation of Israeli Settlements" said:

"Peace mediators are work tirelessly to bring the Israeli extremist right-wing government to the negotiating table. However, the tragic truth is that Israel is using talk about negotiations as a cover to hide efforts to sabotage any real peace process. The continuation of settlement expansion is the most serious issue in Palestine because it makes building any Palestinian state impossible. Peace mediators should not worry about bringing Israel to the negotiating table. Instead they should be vigilant about stopping the settlements. This must be at the forefront of the world's attention if it wants peace in the Middle East."

¶4. Private Arabic daily "Al Watan" on May 1 wrote that Israel is blocking all international efforts to move the peace process forward. According to "Israeli Supporters Challenge Obama's Efforts":

"He fulfilled many promises during his first 100 days, but President Obama faces many challenging voices condemning his actions, including from Israel. The Israeli right-wing government has distanced itself from previous peace agreements, and it continues to make it difficult for the U.S. to move the peace process forward. In fact, instead of moving forward with negotiations, Israel is challenging anyone who is trying to take positive action. It has threatened to halt arms exports to Turkey, and it has threatened the European Union that it will not participant in the peace process if the E.U. pursues a two-state solution."

"EVENTS...POINT TO AN ISRAELI HAND"

¶5. In his weekly (and often conspiracy-minded) Viewpoint column in the Arabic "Al-Shabiba" (circulation 20,000) and English "Times of Oman" (circulation 25,000) on May 3, owner/editor Issa bin Mohammad al Zedjali scooped the world press with his take on the "truth" about the scourge of Somali piracy. In a piece that regrettably cites "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion", al Zedjali say "Israel is the Main Culprit Behind Piracy":

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"The Western media has worked flat out trying to make us believe that a motley bunch of lawbreakers are behind the piracy activities and their aim is nothing beyond getting ransom.

The events on the Somali waters point to an Israeli hand, especially in globalising the issue of security of the Red Sea. The apprehensions raised to this effect are indeed legitimate, particularly when we take into account the theory of Israeli security which is predicated on the idea of a Greater Israel extending from River Nile to the Euphrates as mentioned in the Protocols of Zion. This pernicious idea preoccupies the mind of each and every Israeli politician regardless of his party or the official statements he makes. Israeli politicians still believe in this theory and dream of making it a reality one day."

GRAPPO